

REMARKS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend the specification.
2. Amend the title in response to the Examiner's invitation.
3. Thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2 - 19.
4. Cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.
5. Amend claims 2 and 10 (see Section B infra).
6. Add new claims 20 - 30 (see Section C infra).
7. Apprise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of an IDS (see Section D infra).

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

The objections to claim 10 have been rectified by appropriate amendments.

Therefore, claims 10 - 19 are deemed allowable. Further, in view of the indication of allowability of original dependent claim 2, claim 2 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Accordingly, independent claim 2 and claims 3 - 9 dependent thereon are deemed allowable.

C. THE NEW CLAIMS

New independent claim 20 and claim 21 dependent thereon includes selected limitations from original independent claim 1 and some of the subject matter from original dependent claims 5 and 6. The subject matter from claims 5 and 6 concerns the two regions of the connection line, and particularly the second region having a smaller width. New independent claim 20 does not include a certain phrase from original

independent claim 1. The omitted phrase is: a distance between the first sub-pixel electrode and the counter electrode being greater than a distance between the second sub-pixel electrode and the counter electrode. On the basis of the present record, the omitted phrase is deemed unnecessary.

The first two paragraphs of new independent claim 22 resemble those of original claim 1. However, new independent claim 22 further requires an interlayer insulation film separating the first sub-pixel electrode and the second sub-pixel electrode. In addition, new independent claim 21 describes a connection line which electrically connects a contact region of the second sub-pixel electrode to the switching element, and particularly a defect correction region of the connection line which is situated between the second sub-pixel electrode contact region and the switching element. That defect correction region is not overlaid by the second sub-pixel electrode. For support see, e.g., page 16, line 21 through page 18, line 2, and particularly the paragraph bridging pages 17 and 18 of the specification (where it is stated that the reflection electrode 12 is not provided in the second region 13b of the connection line). This advantageous non-overlay prevents metal forming the second sub-pixel electrode 12 from being partially chipped off, and thus causing a short circuit (which is possible in view of the fact that the second sub-pixel electrode 12, positioned on the interlayer insulation film, is closer to the counter electrode 33), as described on page 17 of the specification.

New dependent claim 23 specifies that the defect correction region is not overlaid by the second sub-pixel electrode and the first sub-pixel electrode, i.e., is not overlaid by either the second sub-pixel electrode or the first sub-pixel electrode. In this regard, note that Fig. 1 shows that transparent electrode 9 does not overlie second region 13b.

New dependent claim 24 states that the liquid crystal display device further comprises a source of backlight, and that the defect correction region of the connection

line is situated so that the backlight is transmitted through the defect correction region. See, e.g., the sentenced bridging pages 17 and 18 of the specification for support.

New dependent claim 25 states the defect correction region has a narrow segment, the narrow segment being of a width which is smaller than the contact region of the second sub-pixel electrode. For support, note that, e.g., second region 13b of connection line as a width which is smaller than first region 13a (see, e.g., the last sentence of the first full paragraph of page 15 of the specification and the first full paragraph of page 17).

New independent claim 26 is a method claim (method of making liquid crystal display) corresponding to new independent claim 20. New dependent claim 27 is a dependent claim corresponding to new dependent claim 21. New dependent claim 28 has limitations corresponding to those of original claim 11.

New independent claim 29 is a method claim (method of making liquid crystal display) corresponding to new independent claim 22. New dependent claim 30 has limitations corresponding to those of original claim 11.

The subject matter of new claims 20 - 30 is not taught or suggested by the embodiments of Japanese Patent Document 11-109417 to Nishiki or by the embodiments of US Patent 6,195,140 to Kubo et al.

D. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant hereby advises the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and date the references listed on the PTO-1449 attached to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) calls the Examiner attention to the following references:

5,220,444	6/1993	Mitsui et al.
5,847,789	12/1998	Nakamura et al.
5,499,120	3/1996	Hansen
4,398,805	8/1983	Cole
3,748,018	7/1973	Borden, Jr.
6,915,140	2/2001	Kubo et al.
6,295,109	9/2001	Kubo et al.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/927,547 filed August 13, 2001

E. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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